



By the King.

A Proclamation for the better setting of his Maiesties

Manufacture of Gold and Siluer thread within this his Realme.



Hereas the Art or Myserie of making Gold and Siluer threed (a commodity of continuall vse in this Our Kingdome of England) hath formerly beene vsed, and made by Strangers in forreine parts only, and from thence transported into this Our Realme; but of late hath beene practised by some of Our louing Subiects, who by their great charge and industrie, haue so well profited therein, and attained to such perfection in that Arte, that they equall the Strangers, in the skilfull making thereof, and are able by the labours of our owne people to make such store, as shall be sufficient to furnish the expence of this whole Kingdome. And whereas we, esteeming it a principall part of Our Office, as a King and Soueraigne Prince, to cherish and encourage the Knowledge and Inuention of good and profitable Arts and Mysteries, and to make them frequent amongst Our owne people, especially such, wherein Our people may employ their labours comfortably, and profitably, and many thereby may be kept from idlenesse, hereby to preserve and increase the Honour and Wealth of Our State and people. And finding that the exercising of this Arte or Myserie (considering the continuall vse of Bullion to be spent in the Manufacture thereof) is a matter of great importance, and therefore fitter for Our owne immediate care, then to be trusted into the hands of any priuate persons, for that the Consumption, or preservation of Bullion wherof Our Coynes (the sinewes and strength of Our State) are made, is a matter of so high consequence, as it is onely proper for Our selfe to take care and account of; we haue heretofore to the good liking of the Inuentors thereof, taken the said Manufacture of Gold & Siluer threed into Our owne hands, and so purpose to retaine, and continue it, to be exercised only by Agents for Our selues, who shall from time to time be accomptable to Us for the same. And whereas for the better perfecting of so Royall a worke, by Our Proclamation, Dated the two and twentieth day of March, in the fifteenth yeere of Our Raigne of England, we did vtterly prohibite the Importation of all foraine Gold and siluer threed made in any the parts beyond the Seas, and the vse of any other Gold or Siluer threed, then such as should from time to time be Sealed with a Seale to be to that purpose appointed, therby to discouer all false, counterfeit and prohibited stuffe, whereby either Our louing Subiects might be abused, or Our selues deluded, as by the same Proclamation appeareth; which wee will and Command, and Our expresse pleasure is, shall in all things be firmly obserued and kept, according to the purport and true meaning thereof, and of Our Royall intent and pleasure therein expressed.

Now forasmuch as wee find, that notwithstanding Our Proclamation, many haue aduentured secretly and by stealth to import Gold and Siluer threed from foraine parts, and many others to make the same within this Realme (not being thereunto allowed by Us, or Our Agents) and to vtter the same to diuers of Our louing Subiects, not being Sealed with the Seale to that purpose appointed, whereby wee finde that Our owne Agents and Workemen employed about the said Manufacture are discouraged, and much false and counterfeit stuffe is vended, to the great detrait of Our Subiects, scandall of the worke, and Our owne proper losse, and yet the Offenders therein cannot easily be discouered, whereby they might be punished according to their demerits: for that the Silkmens and Silkeweauers, and others, who buy and vse the said Gold and Siluer threed, are

but willing to discover such offenders, and (as we have cause to feare) doe rather encourage them in their offence, in contempt of Us and our proceedings. To the end therefore, that this our worke which we have appropriated to our selfe, may prosper in our hands, and neither our Agents be discouraged, nor the worke discountenanced by the making, working, or uttering any false, counterfeit, or prohibited stuffe, and that those whom we have trusted and imployed therein, may also performe their duties iustly and faithfully, without iust grievance, or offence to any of our loving Subjects; we doe hereby straightly charge and Command, That all Silkmens, Silkeweavers, and all and every person and persons, who now use, or hereafter shall use the Arte, Myserie, Trade, or Occupation of making, working, selling, or uttering of any Lace, Buttons, or any other thing or things whatsoever, in all, or in part wrought of or with Gold or Silver threed, or of or with Copper Gold, or Silver threed, shall from time to time take and keepe a true, iust, and exact accompt in writing, of all the names, professions, and habitations, of all and every person and persons, of whom they or any of them shall from time to time buy or receive any Gold or Silver Threed, or Copper Gold or Silver Threed, or any thing wrought or made in all or in part therewith, with the time and times and severall quantities when and what they so bought or received the same: Which said Account, they and every of them shall once a moneth deliver unto a Register to bee to that purpose appointed by some of our Commissioners for the said Manufacture, that so the offenders against our former, and this present Proclamation, may be the better discovered, and their offences severely punished, as being a high Contempt against Us and our Prerogative Royall: For the due performance whereof, and to prevent the Inconveniencies that may ensue, our Will and pleasure is, and we doe hereby straightly charge and commaund, That all and every the persons aforesaid, shall enter into Bond of one hundred or two hundred pounds apiece and not above (as shall be thought fitt by our Commissioners appointed for the said Manufacture now, or that hereafter shall be, or any two of them) to our Attorney Generall for the time being, in trust for Us; with condition to performe all and every the particulars in the former Clause expressed and commanded, upon the paines hereafter limited, which we will shall be severely inflicted on them.

And further we will and Command that no fyne or fynes of Gold or Silver, shall at any time or times hereafter melt, disgrosse, or sell, or cause to be molten, disgrossed or sold any refined Gold or Silver, to any person or persons whatsoever (other then to our Agent and undertakers for our said manufacture) untill he or they shall have first entred into Bond to us of one hundred pounds, or more before our said Commissioners, or any two of them to our use, to melt none of our Coines for the making of refined Gold or Silver, and from time to time, to give a true accompt in writing of all the Names, Professions, and habitations of every such person and persons, as shall from time to time, buy or have any refined Gold or Silver of him or them, and of the true quantity and quantities of all & every such parcell & parcells, as he or they shall from time to time utter, sell, or deliver: For all which said Bonds so to be entred into respectively, we are nevertheless pleased, That no fee or allowance shall be required or taken, nor that the same Bond shall be sent or delivered into our Exchequer, nor otherwise put in suit, but upon apparant breach thereof, first appearing to our Commissioners aforesaid, or any two of them, or to our Attorney generall for the time being; and that at the end of every sixe moneths the same Bond respectively shall be delivered by to the party bound, to be Cancelled, if in the meane time no breach thereof shall appeare to have bin made as aforesaid, and then a new Bond to be entred into by him or her respectively to the same effect, to continue likewise for other sixe Moneths, and so for every sixe Moneths, as long as this or our former Proclamation shall remaine in force, or that our pleasure shall be further signified to the contrary. Likewise our pleasure is that if any of our saide loving Subjects shall casually or unawares, without any wilfull or obstinate Contempt, fall into the breach of any such bond; that our Chancelor of England, or Keeper of our Great Seale, for the time being, shall upon a Petition to him exhibited, & in a summary Course, have power to order and Moderate the same, as he in his wisdom shall thinke fitt. And also we will & Command, That no Gold-Drauer or other person or persons whatsoever, shall at any time hereafter, during this or our said former Proclamation, draw, flat, or use any refined Gold or Silver, for the making of Cloth of Gold, or Cloth of Silver, without the speciall Licence of two of our said Commissioners, under their hands in writing, first had & obtained; upon paine of forfeiture of all such Gold or Silver as shall be wrought, contrary to this our Royall Will and Commaundement; and upon paine of our high indignation and displeasure, and such other paines and punishments as in like Cases are vsuall.

And our further Will and pleasure is, and hereby we doe give full power and authority unto our said Commissioners, or any two or more of them, and to all and every such person and persons, as our said Commissioners or any two or more of them, shall by warrant or writing under their hands nominate or appoint, from time to time and at all times convenient, at their pleasure, in peaceable maner (taking with them a Constable or other fitt officer, and giving notice to the owner or possessor, or his or their servant or servants, of their purpose in that behalfe, to the end they may if they

Will accompany them) to enter into all, and all manner of Shoppes, Cellers, Worke-houses, Ware-houses, Storehouses or other Roomes or places whatsoever, by them suspected, within Our said Realme of England or the Dominions thereof, as well in Cities, Townes corporate, and places privileged, as elsewhere: And likewise to enter into any ship, bote, or other vessel whatsoever, riding at Ancre, or otherwise abiding in any Port, Haven or Creeke of Our said Realme, and Dominions thereof, for the searching and finding out of all such offences, of what nature soever, as shall bee Committed contrary unto this, or Our sayd former Proclamation: And likewise to seaze and take into their hands unto Our vse, all such Gold and silver threed, and Copper Gold and Silver threed, and Gold and Silver wyer imported, or that shall be imported into this Our Realme wrought or made, or that shall be wrought, made, drawne, or flatted within this Realme, other then by Our Agent and Undertakers, their Deputies and Assignes, touching the said Manufacture. And further Our pleasure is, that whatsoever threed wrought, or unwrought, as aforesaid, or wyer, shall be so seized to Our vse as aforesaid, shall forthwith, upon the seizure thereof be inuentoried in writing, subscribed by all such persons, as shall be present at any such seizure, and shall with all convenient speed, be brought unto Our said Commissioners, now, and for the time being, or any two of them, to be disposed of, as we shall thinke fit, and direct from time to time. And for the better accomplishment of Our service herein, we doe hereby straightly charge and Command all Maiors, Sheriffes, Justices of the Peace, Constables, Comptrollers, Searchers, Waiters, and all and every other Our Officers, or Ministers and Subjects whatsoever, That they and every of them be from time to time assisting, aiding and helping unto Our said Commissioners, and such as they, or any two of them shall authorize in that behalfe, in and by all things in the due Execution and performance of the premisses, according to Our true meaning herein declared, as they tender Our pleasure, and will answere the contrary at their utmost perils. And further, wee will and declare Our Royall pleasure and Commandement to be, that if any person or persons shall withstand, or refuse to obey this Our Proclamation, in all or any part thereof, upon complaint and prooffe thereof had and made in that behalfe, before Our Commissioners or any two, or more of them, that now be, or hereafter shall be for the said Manufacture, or before Our Attorney Generall for the time being, that they take order to punish any such person so offending, as a contemner of Our Royall Will and Commandement, by imprisonment or otherwise, as shall and may stand with the Justice of this Our Realme. And we further hereby declare Our intent and pleasure to be, That if any Agent, workman, or other person or persons whatsoever, employed by Us, or Our said Commissioners, now or at any time hereafter, in, or about the said Manufacture, or any thing thereunto belonging, or in, or about any search to be made as aforesaid, shall in any thing falsifie the trust by Us, or Our said Commissioners committed to him, or them, to the last offence, or grievance of any of Our loving Subjects, that Our eares shall be ever open to any iust complaint to be made thereof: And that every person who shall wilfully or corruptly offend by colour of any authoritie, or employment given, or deriued from Us, any way touching or concerning the said worke, shall be severely punished for the same, according to the quality of his or their offence.

Giuen at Roystone the tenth day of October, in the seuenteenth yeere of Our Reigne of England, France, and Ireland, and of Scotland the three and fiftieth.

God saue the King.

 Imprinted at London by Bonham Norton, and
Iohn Bill, Printers to the Kings most Excellent Maiestie.
ANNO DOM. M. DC. XIX.